From: Josh Lupkin
To: City Council
Subject: Cambridge should reject "Mass Against HP" resolution
Date: Sunday, April 22, 2018 12:06:05 AM

Dear City Council Members,

I am writing to tell you that I urge you to vote agains the resolution to boycott Hewlett-Packard by the City of Cambridge. While broader human rights concerns, such as contracts with ICE, have been cited as a motivation for Massachusetts governments, it is hard to see this anything other than an action meant to build a boycott against Israel. If ICE is the main target, why is a boycott not being called for all companies that have relationships with ICE?

Cambridge neighbors, including me and my neighbors, communicate often about issues of inclusion and social justice and have been on the front lines of protest. This resolution does nothing to advance social justice or really help resolve anything in the middle east. It is not the place of the City of Cambridge to participate in boycott movements or make the city synonymous with getting in the way of technological innovation and openness. The City of Cambridge has many real concerns before it, notably issues of affordable housing on which many council members ran this past election. The relationship between people in Israel/Palestine is NOT an issue that concerns the City of Cambridge, and the path to peace will not not come by attempting to boycott American companies doing business in that part of the world. It will not come from from a boycott that creates less contact and engagement, while fostering more animosity and anger.

I am deeply troubled by the fact that our City Council would take action on this without inviting testimony from experts on this complicated issue. It is a dishonest and non-transparent resolution and process. Have we learned nothing from the extreme thinking that has ushered in the deplorable situation in Washington DC in the current regime?

Please do not vote for this resolution. The commitment of Cambridge to social justice is for us to define holistically, from within Cambridge, without the imprimatur of outside groups who have a particular agenda or grievance. It is possible, and necessary, to concentrate on what Cambridge can do to live up to our best ideals by keeping the lines of communication open.

Sincerely,

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